

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Previously cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a series of unique identifiers using a processor coupled to volatile memory and to at least one block of non-volatile memory, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a predetermined identifier divided into a number ~~subfield~~ and a range ~~subfield~~;

storing the predetermined identifier in a field including the number ~~subfield~~ and the range ~~subfield~~ in said volatile memory;

storing ~~a copy of the predetermined identifier~~ and a bit string representing the value of the range ~~subfield~~ in said non-volatile memory; and

generating identifiers by stepping the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the generating identifiers is by incrementing the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A system to create a series of unique identifiers comprising: a predetermined identifier divided into a number ~~subfield~~ and a range ~~subfield~~; volatile memory to store the predetermined identifier in a field including the number ~~subfield~~ and the range ~~subfield~~;

non-volatile memory to store ~~a copy of the predetermined identifier~~ and a bit string representing a value of the range ~~subfield~~; and

a processor for generating identifiers by stepping the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the generating identifiers is by incrementing the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a series of unique identifiers using a processor coupled to ~~faster~~ first memory and to at least one block of second memory slower than the first memory, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a predetermined identifier in said ~~slower~~ second memory and in said ~~faster~~ first memory;

setting a bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory to a first logical value;

setting a number subfield and a range subfield, together comprising an extension field in said ~~faster~~ first memory, to a second logical value; and

generating a monotonic sequence of said unique identifiers by repetitively performing the steps of:

incrementing said number subfield;

creating said unique identifier by concatenating said predetermined identifier and said extension field; and

when said number subfield contains all of the first logical value, performing the steps of:

setting to the second logical value, a next sequential bit in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory;

incrementing said range subfield in said ~~faster~~ first memory; and
resetting said number subfield to the second logical value.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein, in the event that the contents of said ~~faster~~ first memory are lost, establishing a new value for said unique identifier by performing the steps of:

storing, in said range subfield in said extension field, the binary equivalent of the number of sequential bits of the second logical value in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory; and

setting said number subfield to all of the first logical value.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said predetermined identifier is derived from a World Wide Name.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a series of unique identifiers using a processor coupled to first ~~faster~~ memory and to at least one block of second memory slower than ~~the first~~ memory, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a predetermined identifier in said ~~slower~~ second memory and in said ~~faster~~ first memory;

setting a bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory to a value of all of a first logical value;

setting a counter in said ~~slower~~ second memory to a value of a second logical value;

setting a number subfield and a range subfield, together comprising an extension field in said ~~faster~~ first memory, to the second logical value; and

generating a monotonic sequence of said unique identifiers by repetitively performing the steps of:

incrementing said number subfield;

creating said unique identifier by concatenating said predetermined identifier and said extension field; and

when said number subfield contains all of the first logical value, performing the steps of:

incrementing said range subfield in said ~~faster~~ first memory; and

resetting said number subfield to the second logical value;

setting to second logical value, a next sequential bit in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory; and

when said bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory contains all of the second logical value, performing the steps of:

incrementing counter in said ~~slower~~ second memory; and

resetting said bit string to all of the first logical value.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein, in the event that the contents of said ~~faster~~ first memory are lost, establishing a value for said unique identifier by performing the steps of:

storing, in said range subfield in said extension field, a value equal to the binary value of the counter times one plus the total number of bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory, plus the binary equivalent of the number of the second logical value bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory; and

setting said number subfield to all of the first logical value.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said predetermined identifier is derived from a World Wide Name.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a series of unique identifiers for use in a computer network, the system comprising:

~~predetermined identifiers each divided into a number subfield and a range subfield;~~

first ~~faster~~ memory containing one of the unique identifiers comprising the a predetermined identifier in a ~~field including the number subfield and the a range subfield;~~

second memory ~~slower than the first~~ memory containing a copy of said predetermined identifier and a bit string representing a value of said range ~~subfield~~; and

a processor coupled to said ~~faster~~ first memory and said ~~slower~~ second memory;

wherein said system generates a monotonic sequence of said unique identifiers by incrementing said number ~~subfield~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein, when said number ~~subfield~~ contains all of a first logical value, a bit in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory is set to a second logical value; said range ~~subfield~~ is incremented; and said number ~~subfield~~ is reset to the second logical value.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein, in the event that the contents of said ~~faster~~ first memory are lost, reestablishing a value for said one of the unique identifiers by:

storing, in said range ~~subfield~~, a value equal to the binary equivalent of the number of second logical value bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory and

setting said number ~~subfield~~ to all of the first logical value.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said predetermined identifier is derived from a World Wide Name.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a series of unique identifiers for use in a computer network, the system comprising:

~~faster~~ first memory containing one of the unique identifiers comprising a predetermined identifier and a field including a number subfield and a range subfield;

second memory ~~slower than the first~~ memory containing a copy of said predetermined identifier and bit string representing a value of said range subfield; and

a processor coupled to said ~~faster~~ first memory and said ~~slower~~ second memory;

wherein said system generates a monotonic sequence of said unique identifiers by incrementing said number subfield;

wherein, when said number subfield contains all of a first logical value, a bit in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory is set to a second logical value; said range subfield is incremented; and said number subfield is reset to the second logical value; and

wherein, a value for said one of the unique identifiers is determined by storing, in said range subfield, the binary equivalent of the number of the second logical value bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said predetermined identifier is derived from a World Wide Name.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a series of unique identifiers for use in a computer network, the system comprising:

~~faster~~ first memory containing one of the unique identifiers comprising a predetermined identifier and a field including a number subfield and a range subfield;

second memory ~~slower than the first~~ memory containing a counter, a copy of said predetermined identifier and bit string representing a value of said range subfield; and

a processor coupled to said ~~faster~~ first memory and said ~~slower~~ second memory;

wherein said system generates a monotonic sequence of said unique identifiers by incrementing said number subfield;

wherein, when said number subfield contains all of a first logical value, a bit in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory is set to a second logical value; said range subfield is incremented; and said number subfield is reset to the second logical value; and

wherein, when said bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory contains all of the second logical value, the counter in said ~~slower~~ second memory is incremented and the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory is set to all of the first logical value.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein a value for said one of the unique identifiers is determined by storing, in said range subfield, a value equal to the binary value of the counter times one plus the total number of bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory, plus the binary equivalent of the number of the second logical value bits in the bit string in said ~~slower~~ second memory.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said predetermined identifier is derived from a World Wide Name.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a series of unique identifiers using a processor coupled to ~~faster~~ first memory and to at least one block of second memory slower than the first memory, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a predetermined identifier divided into a number ~~subfield~~ and a range ~~subfield~~;

storing the ~~predetermined unique identifier in a field~~ including the a predetermined identifier, a number ~~subfield~~ and the a range ~~subfield~~ in said ~~faster~~ first memory;

storing a copy of the predetermined identifier and a bit string representing a value of the range ~~subfield~~ in said ~~slower~~ second memory; and

generating identifiers by stepping the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the generating identifiers is by incrementing the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

37. (Currently Amended) A system to create a series of unique identifiers comprising: unique identifiers each comprising a predetermined identifier~~each divided into a number subfield and a range subfield;~~
~~faster first~~ memory to store the predetermined identifier ~~in a field including the number subfield and the range subfield;~~
second memory slower than the first memory to store a copy of the predetermined identifier and a bit string representing a value of the range ~~subfield~~; and
a processor for generating identifiers by stepping the value of the range ~~subfield~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37 wherein the generating identifiers is by incrementing the value of the range ~~subfield~~.